



ADVENTURES
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ARIZONA SONORAN DESERT SAMPLER

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Settle in at [Tanque Verde Ranch](#) - recognized as the last luxurious outpost of the old west and located on 60,000 acres of Tucson's most breathtaking desert landscapes
- Saddle up for a private lessons and private group rides to see the ranch from a unique perspective
- Lace up - hike under the towering saguaros and explore some of the Southwest's most diverse landscapes
- Visit Tubac - a Spanish Presidio turned artist colony
- Tour the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum
- Experience some of the unique flavors of Tucson and its legendary Day of the Dead celebrations
- Treat your tired muscles to a massage at the ranch's spa and relax at the indoor/outdoor pools and hot tubs

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Tucson, AZ
Activities:	Multisport
Arrive:	Arrive in Tucson by 3 PM (flying) or 4 PM (driving) on Day 1.
Depart:	We'll be back at the Tucson airport by 11 AM and you can plan flights out after 1 PM on the last day.

Trip Overview

Nestled on the outskirts of Tucson, the [Tanque Verde Ranch](#), is an ideal spot for exploring the surrounding mountains and desert. Each day is a new activity, with lots of fun in the desert sun. Our guides are not only hiking experts but talented artists as well so will offer sketching opportunities on several hikes. We'll start the week with a Cowgirl Cookout and spend some time improving our riding skills and strengthening our hiking legs on nearby trails. A trip to southern Arizona wouldn't be complete without an opportunity to also explore its culture and cuisine. So we will travel south one day to hike at Madera Canyon then visit Tubac - a Spanish presidio turned artist colony for a refreshing prickly pear margarita and time to visit the many galleries and shops. We couldn't leave out a trip to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, described as a fusion experience that's part zoo, part botanical garden, part art gallery, part natural history museum, and part aquarium! With Tanque Verde Ranch as our base, there's a little something for everyone on this Sonoran Desert adventure!

Maximum group size: 13

Rating

This trip is for women in good physical condition who can hike for three to six hours a day in a desert environment. There will be hikes of over six miles on four of the days and also some time to relax at the ranch. You will have the option to participate in all of the hikes if you train for a level 3 rated trip by engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross-country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week.

Rating: 1 [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) 4 5.

What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size

- Five nights of double occupancy accommodation
- All meals except dinner on the last night
- All transportation once you arrive in Tucson, AZ
- National Park and other entry fees
- Private horseback rides and lessons

What's not included: Travel to and from Tucson, one dinner, travel insurance, spa services, alcoholic beverages, and guide gratuities.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Today is arrival day. Please plan to arrive at the Tucson International Airport by 3 PM or at the Tanque Verde Ranch by 4 PM. After brief introductions, we'll settle into Tanque Verde Ranch, our home base for the trip. Located on the edge of the Rincon Mountains and overlooking the rolling foothills of Saguaro National Park, Tanque Verde Ranch offers charming, southwestern lodging, and is one of Tucson's top destinations for horseback riding and other outdoor activities. We'll take a short hike to familiarize ourselves with the ranch and then gather for a welcome dinner! After dinner, relax around the campfire or enjoy the sunset from the courtyard outside our rooms. (D)

DAY 2

After an early breakfast, we'll have a private riding lesson and then saddle up for a walk ride around the ranch. After this warm-up ride, we'll stretch our legs on a hike in neighboring Saguaro National Park. We'll pack lunches and daypacks for a 6.5-mile loop hike of Gardwood Dam and Little Wildhorse Tank trail. The first 30-minutes are fairly flat and then we'll have a few challenging ups and downs but the views and variety of cactus and wildlife along the way are worth it! This hike will also take us to Little Wildhorse Tank - one of the only perennial areas for water in the park. We'll have lunch on the trail and time to marvel over all the interesting plants and animals. For those wanting an extra challenge, there's also the option to take a 1.2-mile round-trip spur trail to Bridal Wreath Falls. For those that would prefer to skip the extra mileage and capture the moment in an artistic way, your guide will lead a sketching and watercolor workshop trailside. We will get back to the ranch in time to take a quick dip in the pool or hot tub and freshen up before heading into Tucson for dinner and a margarita, if you choose! Overnight Tanque Verde Ranch (B, L, D)

DAY 3

After a hearty breakfast we'll drive about 90-minutes south to explore Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. The canyon is one of the most renowned birding locations in the United States and we'll have ample opportunities to add to our bird lists on the 6.5-mile Josephine Saddle Loop via Super Trail. The trail follows a moderate grade for 3.6 miles before reaching the Josephine Saddle. This is the perfect spot to enjoy our lunch and keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife, including the stunning Elegant Trogon! This is another spot for us to create artistic memories too. At Josephine Saddle, the trail branches in several directions and we'll return via Old Baldy trail, descending the 1700 feet we just climbed up but in only 2.2 miles. After our hike, we will continue about an hour south to the historic town of Tubac, which founded as a presidio, or fort, in 1752 as the Spanish empire expanded into the desert Southwest. Today, Tubac is a thriving artist community with over 100 galleries, shops and great restaurants. You'll have the option to stroll the town at your own pace or shuttle a short distance to the Tumacácori mission - a 19th-century Franciscan mission and now a National Historic Park. You can take a tour of the park or walk 4 miles back to Tubac along the historic Anza trail that follows the Santa Cruz river. We will meet back up around sunset for dinner at Elvira's - an iconic, vibrant and award-winning Mexican restaurant. If you want to try mole while in Arizona, this is the place to do it! Overnight Tanque Verde Ranch (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Come dressed in your cowgirl costume for this morning's Halloween hike. After an early breakfast we'll drive about an hour to the top of Mt. Lemmon, stopping along the way at a few of the highlights and viewpoints. Depending on the conditions and energy levels we'll hike one of the many shaded trails near the top of the mountain. After a lovely picnic lunch, we'll treat ourselves to a cookie at Mt. Lemmon's famous cookie cabin! We'll be back at the ranch by mid-afternoon with the option to take a sunset ride, relax at your room, or partake in one of the numerous activities and amenities at the ranch. Tonight we'll dine together with a special chef's selection at one of the acclaimed local restaurants. Overnight at Tanque Verde Ranch. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Today begins with an early breakfast and plenty of cowgirl coffee! We'll then drive a short distance to Sabino Canyon and catch a shuttle to the Seven Falls trailhead. It's one of Tucson's most popular hikes (it's easy to see why) and worth getting there early to beat the crowds. On this 5-mile out and back trail, we'll be surrounded by saguaros, cholla, ocotillo and the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. And after a gradual and steady climb, we'll be rewarded with the views of Seven Falls and time to relax and dip your feet in the cool pools. After a sack lunch, and an optional sketch in our notebooks, we'll hike back to the trailhead for the short shuttle ride down the canyon. We'll then zip over to Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place! We'll arrive in time to witness the Raptor Free Flight and then tour of this unique museum. Sadly, our time together is coming to end but we'll share a spectacular final dinner together in Tucson. Overnight Tanque Verde Ranch (B, L)

DAY 6

Wow, it's our last day, already? We sure packed a lot of fun into these 5 days together! You are free to leave any time after breakfast. We will have you to the airport by 11 AM for flights out after 1 PM. Or there are shuttles and ride-shares available for a fee if you would like to leave at another time.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

1. Arrive at the Tucson International Airport (TUS) by 3 PM on the first day of the trip.
2. If you are driving, plan be at the Tanque Verde Ranch by 4 PM. There will be options to park your vehicle for the duration of the trip at the Tanque Verde Ranch.
3. Details will be provided in the Pre-Departure document sent 4 months prior to start of your trip.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

There are five double-occupancy "salas" rooms available each with two queen beds, as well as two double or single occupancy "casitas" for a supplement. All of the rooms are located on the north side of the property in "Quail Hollow" with a nice grassy courtyard that invites you to relax and enjoy the sunset with your travel companions. The casitas are more spacious with their own sitting areas and are available for a supplement of \$700, which can be as a single supplement or shared for an upgraded double. Both are [described here](#).

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)